

2.0 Purpose and Need

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has several missions to fulfill at the Hanford Site that include, but are not limited to, being a natural resource trustee, developing economic diversification, managing energy research, and remediating legacy wastes. These missions have competing natural resource consumption needs and management values. Governments and stakeholders within the region have an interest in Hanford resources and in management of those resources over the long-term. The DOE needs to assess the relative qualities of Hanford's resources, compare the priorities and needs of Hanford's missions, and reach decisions such as the identification and disposal of any excess lands. DOE Order 430.1 and Federal Law 42 U.S.C. 7274k require a land-use plan for the Hanford Site. This Final HCP EIS provides the analysis needed to adopt a land-use plan.

The DOE needs to determine (1) if DOE wants to plan with the cooperating agencies and Tribal governments, and (2) how the land-use planning process should be integrated into the current Hanford Site management systems. The decision to cooperatively plan involves the adoption of a comprehensive land-use plan that contains three parts, as outlined in Chapter 6: a land-use map, planning policies, and implementing procedures. The default would be no comprehensive land-use plan as referenced in the No-Action Alternative.

The role of the Final HCP EIS is to document, in a public forum, the process of determining the best combination of land uses required to meet DOE mission needs for minimally the next 50 years. Through this EIS, DOE is responding to the following needs:

- Ⓒ Meet the mandate set forth in 42 U.S.C. 7274k, requiring the development of a final future-use plan
- Ⓒ Support the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington State Department of Ecology, and DOE remediation decision-making processes
- Ⓒ Develop a comprehensive land-use plan for the Hanford Site in accordance with DOE Order 430.1 (DOE 1995c).

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